

N 50-99

OCI NOTICE
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OPERATIONS
2 August 1973

OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE

MAINTENANCE OF BASIC INFORMATION DATA BANK

1. With the NIS going out of business, the feeling may arise among some of us that we can now reduce our store of basic political and sociological information. We must guard against this feeling. The closing down of the NIS in no way lessens the need for maintaining and improving OCI's reservoir of basic information about each country of intelligence interest to the U.S. This need stems from OCI's primary analytical and reporting mission. It existed before OCI was in the NIS business, and it continues to exist now that we are closing out the NIS function.

2. The requirement for an adequate bank of basic data cannot be satisfied by merely maintaining a file of incoming documents. The analyst must work actively to update his material in a systematic and structured way. He must seek out information to fill gaps, he must put relevant bits and pieces together into coherent segments, and he must put his results in a form readily accessible to anyone who might be called upon to pinch hit or take over on the particular country.

3. Meeting White House and other government demands for more rapid reporting and analysis will undoubtedly place additional strains on the office for basic and background information. We will be expected to provide quick explanation and perspective to events of intelligence interest. The time element will require that basic data be assembled, systematically updated, and in a form readily available for use. All hands should give attention to ways and means of accomplishing this objective.

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4. Although the NIS as a program is being abolished, publication of the Basic Intelligence Factbook will be continued on an interagency basis. As in the past, OCI analysts will contribute the sociological and political information for it.

5. The task of providing basic political, sociological, and other data, as required, is a line responsibility. Branch and division chiefs will take appropriate measures to ensure that this task is performed with respect to all countries and organizational entities for which they are responsible.

6. A listing of some of the kinds and categories of basic material that analysts should have readily available is appended. The list is not exhaustive, nor are all items appropriate for every country. It is intended to be illustrative, hopefully a useful guide to the development of the kind of data bank of basic information OCI needs and will continue to need to fulfill its responsibilities.

STATINTL

Acting Director
Current Intelligence

Attachment: a/s

Distribution C

Some examples of the kinds and categories of basic information on a country needed by OCI in the fulfillment of its current intelligence mission.

1. Current constitution and, where appropriate, earlier constitutions for comparison and perspective.
2. Other organic laws.
3. Provisions for invoking martial law and state of siege; powers and restrictions under each.
4. Provisions for transfer of authority from the chief executive for disability or other reasons.
5. Major legislative acts or executive decrees.
6. Major policy pronouncements by government and opposition spokesmen.
7. Biographic profiles of major political and other figures.
8. Requirements for registration of political parties and restrictions on their activities.
9. Organization and leadership of political parties and factions, their antecedents, general philosophy and major objectives, intervals at which important units of each party are convened; data on size, voting strength, influence.
10. Electoral laws and suffrage requirements.
11. Intervals at which periodic elections occur and conditions under which non-periodic elections can be called.
12. Data on elections: total vote, percent of electorate voting, vote of each party, seats won in legislative elections; voting patterns by region, age, sex.
13. Structure of government, both at the national and major subordinate levels.

14. Data on police and security organizations, lines of control and areas of responsibility of each, basic political outlook and traditions of each.
15. Data on politically relevant organizations or movements of youth, women, occupational groups, caste or social strata.
16. Labor relations laws; data on labor unions and organizations of industrial and commercial interests.
17. Ethnic, tribal, and religious divisions and animosities; data on size of elements, cohesion within them, leadership, etc.
18. Membership in international organizations and major regional organizations.
19. Major alliances and mutual defense treaties.
20. Agreements with the U.S., especially status of military force agreements, extradition treaties and narcotics control agreements.
21. Laws pertaining to foreign investment, repatriation of earnings and capital, and expropriation.
22. Countries with which subject country maintains diplomatic relations; types of missions; size of missions, particularly of the major powers within the subject country.
23. Nationality laws, especially those relating to the question of dual citizenship.
24. Dates of recent population censuses and scheduling of future censuses; reliability of census data.
25. Population size, growth rate (natural increase and migration), distribution, and density.
26. Major fields of employment, shifts in employment patterns, and unemployment statistics.
27. Data on the educational system, particularly with respect to the quality of education and its relevance for the country's trained manpower needs.

28. Data on information media, including circulation (or audience), ownership and political complexion or bias; censorship laws and other means of political control of the media.

Note: Most statistical data should include figures for several years to show trends and provide data for comparisons and perspective.